

4. (Amended twice ) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:  
a slide bar having a gripping portion;  
an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and [mounting] a spring mounted between the upper jaw and the slide bar;  
a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a lower portion extending toward the gripping portion; and  
a brake lever, pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said lower jaw wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein a user may adjust a position of the lower jaw on the slide bar by actuating said lever and moving said lower jaw relative to said slide bar.

16. (amended twice) An adjustable hand clamp, comprising:  
a slide bar having a gripping portion;  
an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and [mounting] a spring mounted between the upper jaw and the slide bar;  
a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion; and  
a brake lever, pivotally mounted on one of said portions of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein a user adjusts a position of the lower jaw on the slide, by repositioning the lower jaw with a thumb.

21. (Amended twice) A method of grasping an object with one hand using an adjustable hand tool having a brake lever, the method comprising:

providing the object and the hand tool;

gripping the hand tool with one hand;

adjusting a gap between jaws of the hand tool with the same hand, using a lower jaw and a pivotable upper jaw of the hand tool, wherein the lower jaw has a lower portion extending toward a gripping portion of the hand tool, and the brake lever of the hand tool is pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw, and wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the lower portion extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion; and grasping the object.

23. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, further comprising tightening a grasp on the object, urging the pivotable upper jaw and a moving lower jaw to grasp the object more tightly, wherein the hand partially rotates the hand tool about the object and presses the lower jaw toward the upper jaw.

24. (Amended twice) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

a pivotable upper jaw mounted to the slide bar;

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on the lower jaw and spring-biased on the second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the second portion extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein the brake lever and the slide bar form a bar-engaging mechanism, and a user may open the jaws with a thumb, disengaging the brake lever from the slide bar and urging the lower jaw away from the upper jaw.